

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

TREASURY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

INFO COMUSSAGE

CINCPAC

COGARD

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST BY POUCH

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

UNCLAS STATE 036676

COGARD FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: FEBRUARY 18 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. INDOCHINA

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KHMER REBELS OVERRUN FANK DIV BASE CAMP NINE MILES FROM  
PP, FORCING 5000 TROOPS TO RETREAT TOWARD CAPITAL AFTER  
47-DAY BATTLE. LOSS OF BASE ON MEKONG SERIOUS BLOW TO  
GOVT EFFORTS TO REOPEN RIVER. GKR FORCES ALSO SET BACK

ALONG LOWER MEKONG, WHERE MIL SOURCES SAY DEFENDERS  
DRIVEN FROM TWO POSTS, 35 AND 50 MILES SOUTH OF PP.  
REBELS TIGHTEN NOOSE, SURROUNDING CITY ON ALL SIDES AT  
DISTANCE FROM 8 TO 12 MILES. US SOURCES SAY IF MEKONG  
NOT REOPENED, "NO OTHER CHOICE" BUT TO MOUNT AIRLIFT  
OF UP TO 100 FLIGHTS DAILY TO SUPPLY PP (UPI, NYDN).  
MIL SOURCES SAY HUNDREDS OF GKR TROOPS ABANDONED ALL  
POSITIONS ON LOWER MEKONG, TEMPORARILY GIVING UP ATTEMPT  
TO REOPEN PP SUPPLY LINE. ABOUT 500 FANK TROOPS LAUNCHED  
AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT 40 MILES SE OF CAPITAL, BUT SUFFERED  
HEAVY CASUALTIES AND HAD TO BE EVACUATED. OBSERVERS SAY  
"TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE"; DIPLOMATIC AND MIL ANALYSTS SAY  
"NOW WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE" TO OPEN  
MEKONG; "THEY DO NOT HAVE THE TROOPS" (AP CHITRIB, PHINQ,  
WP, SUN).

US OFFICIAL SAYS NO MONEY TO PAY FOR LONG AIRLIFT, AND  
KHMERS HAVE TO OPEN MEKONG OR "WILL LOSE" WAR IN FEW  
MONTHS (AP WP, CHITRIB).

REBELS CAPTURE DISTRICT TOWN AND 2000 TONS OF RICE,  
ACCORDING MIL SOURCES. LOSS DOES NOT AFFECT PP, BUT  
THREATENS BATTAMBANG PROVINCE WITH SHORTAGE (AP BALTO  
N-A 2/17, WP, PHINQ, CHITRIB, SUN).

US EMBASSY FRIDAY URGED SOME OF 350 OTHER AMERICANS TO  
LEAVE PP FOR THEIR "SAFETY AND WELFARE" (AP WP, CHITRIB).

NYT'S SCHANBERG IN PP NOTES PESSIMISTIC REPORTS ON GKR  
ATTEMPT TO REOPEN LOWER MEKONG; BELIEVES WITHOUT DRAMATIC  
TURN-AROUND, IT MAY BE SOME TIME BEFORE ANOTHER RIVER  
CONVOY CAN REACH CAPITAL, AT LEAST WITHOUT HEAVY LOSSES.  
RUMORED 1000 FANK TROOPS IN MEKONG-CLEARING ATTEMPT  
NOWHERE NEAR ENOUGH TO DISLODGE OVER-4000 INSURGENTS WHO  
CONTROL RIVER FROM PP TO SVN BORDER. GKR SENIOR GENERALS  
TOLD LON NOL ONLY WAY TO SAVE GOVT IS TO PULL TROOPS  
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FROM PROVINCE CAPITALS, PERHAPS LOSING SOME, AND  
USE THEM TO OPEN MEKONG AND DEFEND PP AND AIRPORT;  
ADDS THAT LON NOL'S RESPONSE NOT KNOWN.

SCHANBERG SAYS MAIN REASON FOR LACK OF TROOPS IN  
MEKONG OPERATION IS HEAVY TOLL TAKEN BY INSURGENTS  
SINCE CURRENT OFFENSIVE STARTED NEW YEAR'S DAY.  
CASUALTIES SINCE THEN 10,000 OUT OF COMBAT FORCE OF  
50,000; TOTAL STRENGTH OVER 200,000, BUT "MOST ARE  
DESK SOLDIERS OR HAVE OTHER REAR-ECHELON FUNCTIONS."  
PP APPEARS UNDER NO IMMEDIATE THREAT OF GROUND ASSAULT.  
AIRLIFT MOSTLY DEVOTED TO AMMO, SO FOOD AND FUEL  
INCREASINGLY SCARCE, AND AIRLIFT TO SUPPLY ENTIRE CITY  
PROBABLY TOO COSTLY; SO MEKONG SEEMS TO BE KEY TO

SURVIVAL.

CSM'S SOUTHERLAND IN PP DESCRIBES "STOIC" CITY AS WAR CLOSURES IN AND ROCKETS DO INDISCRIMINATE DAMAGE. GIVES VIGNETTES OF LIVES OF PEOPLE WHO LIVE ON LANE THAT HAS SUFFERED HEAVY ROCKETING.

WP'S GREENWAY IN PP RECOUNTS ACTIVITIES OF BIRD AIR, HISTORY OF AIR AMERICA, AND VINNELL CORP THAT PROVIDES TCNS TO WORK ON LOGISTICS IN CAMBODIA; MENTIONS NEW FIRM, LMAT, THAT WILL BE CONTRACTOR TO ADVISE KAF ON SERVICING PLANES TO REPLACE EXPIRED AIR AMERICA CONTRACT. NOTES CONTINENTAL AIRLINES CONTRACT TO FLY BANGKOK-PP THREE TIMES WEEKLY. WONDERS WHETHER US HAS FORESWORN ROLE OF WORLD POLICEMAN "TO TAKE UP

THE CUDGEL AS THE WORLD'S MERCENARY."

REP ASPIN ACCUSES DOD OF JUGGLING BOOKS TO HIDE 118 MIL DOLS SPENT IN THAILAND TO SUPPORT US ACTIVITIES IN CAMBODIA AND SVN (AP, PHINQ).

SUN FRONT-PAGES AP PHOTO OF KHMER SOLDIER CRADLING WOUNDED CHILD IN CYCLO ON WAY TO HOSPITAL.

AP (PHINQ) REPORTS GVN MONDAY ANNOUNCED DROPPING LIBEL CHARGES AGAINST SIX NEWSPAPERS ACCUSED OF DEFAMING UNCLASSIFIED

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THIEU (REPORTED IN FEB. 18 USIA WIRELESS FILE).

AP SAYS INDIA TAKING STEPS TO ESTABLISH FORMAL CONTACTS AND MORE DIRECT RELATIONS WITH VC (PHINQ). OFFICIALS INDICATED INDIA WOULD PERMIT VC TO OPEN MISSION IN NEW DELHI, THOUGH LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION NOT KNOWN (SUN). DISCLOSURE CAME IN ANNUAL STATE-OF-THE-NATION ADDRESS TO PARLIAMENT BY GOI, BUT STOPPED SHORT OF SAYING INDIA WOULD EXTEND FORMAL DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION TO VC (WP).

NYT'S BUTTERFIELD IN CAN THO DESCRIBES GAINS MADE IN DELTA BY COMMUNISTS AS ESPECIALLY WORRISOME TO US AND GVN OFFICIALS BECAUSE OF HIGH POPULATION AND IMPORTANT RICE PRODUCTION OF AREA (REPORTED IN FEB 18 USIA WIRELESS FILE).

## 2. CHINA

AP REPORTS WH SOURCES SAYING MONDAY THAT PRES FORD TENTATIVELY IS PLANNING PRC VISIT IN OCT OR NOV (SUN, PHINQ).

AFP (HK) SAYS MORE REVOLUTIONARY PURGES IN STORE FOR CHINA DURING LONG TRANSITIONAL PERIOD FROM SOCIALISM TO COMMUNISM, ACCORDING RECENT PEOPLE'S DAILY EDITORIAL MADE PUBLIC MONDAY. ARTICLE, PUBLISHED BY NCNA, SAID LINGERING INFLUENCE OF LIU AND LIN MEANS "NEW BOURGEOIS ELEMENTS MAY EMERGE" FROM AMONG SECTION OF PARTY MEMBERS, WORKERS, INTELLECTUALS AND SMALL PRODUCERS. WHAT APPEARS TO WORRY PRC LEADERS MOST ARE PEASANTS, WHO, ARTICLE CONFESSED, "INVARIABLY RETAIN CERTAIN CHARACTERISTICS INHERENT IN THEIR FORMER POSITION AS SMALL PRODUCERS." OBSERVERS BELIEVE EDITORIAL PUBLISHED AS WARNING AGAINST ANY WHO MIGHT TRY TAKE ADVANTAGE OF LIMITED TOLERANCE EMBODIED IN NEW CONSTITUTION AS GESTURE TO PEASANTS. EDITORIAL'S

FAILURE TO RULE OUT EFFORTS TO ISOLATE "HANDFUL OF CLASS ENEMIES" AND "ATTACK THEM" INTERPRETED AS UNCLASSIFIED

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WARNING OF MORE PURGES (WP).

### 3. JAPAN

JOC'S CULLISON IN TOKYO SAYS CABINET COUNCIL ON ECON POLICY FRIDAY ADOPTED 10-POINT PACKAGE TO STIMULATE SAGGING ECONOMY, PROVIDE 5.8 BILLION DOLS TO RESCUE FIRMS HIT HARDEST BY GOJ ANTI-INFLATION POLICY.

JOC (TOKYO) CITES INDUSTRY SOURCES THAT ABU DHABI HAS OFFERED INDEPENDENT REFINERS THREE-YEAR DIRECT DEAL. TO IMPORT MINIMUM-20,000 BBL/DAY AT 11 DOLS/BBL, 37 CENTS UNDER CURRENT PRICE; WITH AMPLE LOW-SULFUR , CRUDE ON HAND JAPANESE SEEN WILLING TO WAIT FOR MARKET TO SLACKEN, PRICES SOFTEN.

CHITRIB'S YATES IN TOKYO NOTES GUERRILLA-HOLDOUT ONODA TOLD FOREIGN PRESS CLUB MONDAY HE WANTS TO RETURN TO ISLAND HIDEOUT TO APOLOGIZE FOR KILLING, WOUNDING FIL VILLAGERS; BUT PLACED RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACTS ON GOJ WHICH SENT HIM THERE, ORDERED HIM TO FIGHT.

IVER PETERSON (NYT) SAYS JAPANESE BUSINESSMEN, DIPLOMATS FEAR COUPLE OF YEARS EDUCATION IN NY, HOWEVER BENEFICIAL, MAY REDUCE THEIR CHILDREN'S CHANCES TO PASS COMPETITIVE ENTRANCE EXAMS AFTER RETURN TO JAPAN; ORGANIZE OWN DAY SCHOOL IN QUEENS TO OPEN NEXT FALL. NOTES 2,000 JAPANESE CHILDREN NOW IN NY AREA SCHOOLS.

### 4. KOREA

AP (SEOUL) SAYS PARK RELEASES 24 MORE POLITICAL PRISONERS, INCLUDING RC BISHOP CHI AND TWO JAPANESE, BRINGING TOTAL RELEASED IN THREE DAYS TO 149 (WP). ROKG EXPLAINS RELEASE UNDER "STAY OF TERMS" RATHER THAN AMNESTY MEANS CAN BE JAILED AGAIN IF THEY DO NOT "BEHAVE" (NYDN).

FEB 18 USIA WIRELESS FILE CARRIES NYT REPRINT OF UNCLASSIFIED

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LONDON TIMES REPORT FROM SEOUL ON ALLEGATIONS BY RELEASED PRISONERS THAT INTERROGATORS USED TORTURE TO EXTRACT CONFESSIONS TO TRY LINK "DEMOCRATIC DISSIDENTS" WITH COMMUNISTS, OR NK.

SUN'S SEIDEN IN TOKYO NOTES ANTI-PARK ACTIVISTS IN TOKYO AND SEOUL SAY SURPRISE "AMNESTY" ANNOUNCEMENT WILL NOT END THEIR FIGHT TO OVERTURN "REGRESSIVE CONSTITUTION", GAIN TRUE DEMOCRACY IN SOUTH KOREA (FEB 18 USIA WIRELESS FILE).

#### 5. THAILAND

UPI (BANGKOK) SAYS MODERATE EARTHQUAKE, FIRST IN TEN YEARS, CAUSED CONSIDERABLE CONFUSION IN CITIES MONDAY, BUT ONLY SLIGHT DAMAGE, FEW INJURIES (WP, CHITRIB).

#### 6. PHILIPPINES

INTL CHESS FEDN ACCEPTS FIVE MILLION DOL OFFER TO HOLD FISCHER-KARPOV WORLD TITLE CHESS MATCH IN MANILA (PHINQ, BALTO N-A, WP). SOVIET CHAMP OBJECTS UNOFFICIALLY BECAUSE MANILA TOO HOT.

#### 7. AUSTRALIA

JOC NOTES GOA MINERALS AND ENERGY MIN CONNOR TELLS PARLIAMENT 40 PERCENT INCREASE IN PRICE OF LOCAL CRUDE OIL, NOW ABOUT 2.80 DOLS/BBL, WOULD BENEFIT AUSSIE PRODUCERS, STIMULATE SEARCH FOR NEW FIELDS.

LAT'S LAMB IN SYDNEY NOTES NEW OPERA HOUSE PAID OFF 128 OF 150 MILLION BUILDING COST IN FIRST 15 MONTHS WITH PROCEEDS FROM STATE LOTTERY. BUT HARBOR BRIDGE OPENED 1932 HAS PAID OFF ONLY ONE OF 25 MILLION DOL CONSTRUCTION COST WITH TOLLS. SUGGESTS LOCAL OFFICIALS CONSIDER FINANCIAL DESTINIES OF SYDNEY'S TWO MOST STRIKING STRUCTURES.

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COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

8. INDOCHINA

JOHN CHAMBERLAIN (BOST H-A) ARGUES FOR CONTINUED AID TO SAIGON, CITING RECENT OIL STRIKES OFF SVN COAST, INDUSTRIAL NATIONS' NEED FOR OIL AND SOVIET DESIGNS IN INDIAN OCEAN. SAYS KREMLIN GEOPOLITICIANS WELL AWARE INDIAN OCEAN -- THROUGH WHICH WEST MOVES OIL -- CAN BE DOMINATED BY ANY POWER THAT CONTROLS SUEZ AND NARROW STRAITS AT SINGAPORE. FEARS SOVIETS HOPE TO CONTINUE FEEDING ENOUGH AID TO HANOI TO KEEP VNAMESE STRUGGLING "LIKE FLIES IN GLUE" UNTIL SAIGON FALLS, OPENING PATH TO SINGAPORE. INSISTS, THEREFORE, AID TO SVN NEEDED TWO, THREE MORE YEARS, TO GAIN TIME

TO DEVELOP PROMISING SVN OFFSHORE OIL FIELD THAT MAY YIELD TWO-FOUR MILLION BBL/DAY, AND NORTH SLOPE AND NORTH SEA AS WELL, TO FREE WEST FROM POSSIBLE SOVIET DOMINATION OF INDIAN OCEAN (FEB 10).

EDIT BOSTON GLOBE (2/18) CALLS FOR REDUCED ECONOMIC INDOCHINA AID AIMED AT FORCING POLITICAL SETTLEMENT. ANY AID EXCEPT FOR HUMANITARIAN PURPOSES IS "CRIMINAL." CONGRESS SHOULD TAKE LEAD IN REACHING "DIM GLOW" AT END OF INDOCHINESE TUNNEL.

PHINQ EDIT (2/18) SAYS FOREIGN POLICY NOT EXECUTIVE MONOPOLY. POINTS TO PRESIDENT FORD'S CALL FOR COOPERATION WITH CONGRESS BUT NOTES HIS LACK OF WILLINGNESS TO COMPROMISE ON AID TO VIETNAM. CONGRESS SHOULD NOT SURRENDER ITS CONVICTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS BEST FOR AMERICA.

DUDMAN IN ST LOUIS P-D (2/L9) LIKENS PRESENT SITUATION IN VIETNAM TO THAT FOLLOWING 1954 GENEVA ACCORDS WITH US ENCOURAGING GVN COOLNESS TO ACCORD ADHERANCE. PARIS AGREEMENT IS NEARLY DEAD. IF IT DIES WAY OPEN FOR REINTRODUCTION OF AMERICAN ADVISORS AND TROOPS PLUS UNLIMITED EQUIPMENT. SAYS SENATE STUDY NOTES THAT JUST PRIOR TO PARIS AGREEMENT US SENT IN 753 MIL DOL WORTH OF EQUIPMENT PLUS 57 MIL DOLS LEFT BY KOREANS. UNCLASSIFIED

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COMMUNISTS HAVE NO INTEREST IN DESTROYING 1973 AGREEMENT. THIEU VIEWS IT AS POTENTIAL DISASTER. COMMUNISTS REACTED TO THIEU'S ATTACKS. CITES GREATLY LESSER FIGURES FOR COMMUNIST AID TO NVN THAN FOR MIL AID TO GVN.

CHITRIB'S KIRK FINDS HALF-REMEMBERED NAMES OF PLACES

LIKE PHUOC BINH AGAIN RAISING QUESTION OF WHAT THEY WERE WORTH IN US BLOOD AS THEY SLOWLY SLIP FROM SVN GRASP. QUOTES AMB MARTIN THAT PHUOC BINH WOULD NOT HAVE FALLEN IF US HAD MET GVN NEEDS AS HE RECOMMENDED. WONDERS HOW SOLID MARTIN'S VIEW IS; CONCLUDES ONE CANNOT TOTALLY DISMISS IT DESPITE "HAWKISH" REPUTATION AND PASSIONATE DEFENSE OF GVN IN ALL MOMENTS OF "WEAKNESS AND INEPTITUDE." STATES PERHAPS GVN COULD HAVE HELD PHUOC BINH LONGER WITH MORE GUNS, AMMO, AIRPOWER - "IF, IF, MORE, MORE. WHERE DOES IT STOP?" NOTES NOW NAME OF TAY NINH APPEARS IN PRESS BRINGING FLOOD OF MEMORIES. WONDERS HOW LONG SITUATION CAN LAST AND WHAT WE SHOULD DO, BUT HAS NO ANSWERS.

#### 9. KOREA

GLOBE EDIT (2/15) STATES CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING REFERENDUM "OUGHT TO CAST SERIOUS DOUBTS" ON ITS

LEGITIMACY AS "LITMUS TEST OF NATIONAL SENTIMENT." OPPOSITION CRITICISM WAS STIFLED, AND INTEGRITY OF ENTIRE PROCESS QUESTIONED BY OPPOSITION. WHATEVER PARK'S INTENTION, ANY "PRETENSE TOWARD DEMOCRACY WILL HAVE A HOLLOW RING" SO LONG AS TOTALITARIAN REGIME MAINTAINS MARTIAL LAW AND OUTLAWS POLITICAL DISSENT ON PAIN OF DEATH. RATHER THAN STAGE "DUBIOUS PLEBISCITE" PARK SHOULD FASHION ROKG WORTHY OF US SUPPORT.

LAT (2/14) FINDS SURPRISING THING ABOUT REFERENDUM WAS NOT PARK'S INEVITABLE VICTORY, BUT THAT SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF ELECTORATE RISKED DANGER IN CLOSELY MONITORED ELECTION BY EXPRESSING OPPOSITION IN SOME WAY. FULL TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT WHO VOTED DISAPPROVED OF PARK RULE, JOINED BY TWENTY-PERCENT STAY-AT-HOMES UNCLASSIFIED

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IN PARTICULARLY COURAGEOUS OPPOSITION, SINCE LATTER RISK QUESTIONING BY AUTHORITIES. IN DEMOCRACY PARK COULD VIEW 58 PERCENT SUPPORT AS LANDSLIDE, BUT SK NO LONGER DEMOCRACY, AND ELECTION THAT BANS CRITICISM OF REGIME IS NOT FREE. SUGGESTS SUPPORT SHOWN FOR DONG-A ILBO BY PEOPLE IS "FAIRER MEASURE OF SENTIMENT FOR FREEDOM" THAN ANY NUMBER OF "STAGED REFERENDUMS."

#### 10. CHINA

TEMPLE U HISTORY PROF S.M. CHIU, IN LETTER TO PHIL BULLETIN (FEB 11), DENOUNCES "GROUNDLESS AND MISLEADING" US MEDIA SPECULATION -- "LARGELY EMANATED FROM TAIWAN SOURCES" -- THAT RECENT NPC AND NEW PRC GOVT APPOINTEES CONSTITUTE VICTORY BY CHOU'S "MODERATES" OVER "RADICALS"

HEADED BY MAO AND CHIANG CHING. MAINTAINS NEW CONSTITUTION IS CLEARLY AFFIRMATION OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN CHINA DURING AND AFTER GPCR; IN ADDITION, NOTHING ABOUT COMPOSITION OF STATE COUNCIL SUGGESTS MEMBERS ARE MORE OR LESS RADICAL THAN PREDECESSORS. REMINDS THAT STATE COUNCIL MERELY CARRIES OUT CCP POLICIES; AND FACT WANG HUN-WEN DOES NOT HOLD ANY POSITION IN CABINET DOES NOT MEAN HIS IMPORTANCE HAS DIMINISHED IN ANY WAY. "WE SIMPLY CANNOT USE CONVENTIONAL POLITICAL CRITERIA" TO ASSESS EVENTS IN CHINA (FEB 11).

AH REPORTS COMMENTS OF KC FARMER ALBERT DOEGE, ONE OF 15 IOWA AND KANSAS FARMERS WHO, ALONG WITH TWO COLLEGE STUDENTS AND REV. JOHN STITZ, RECENTLY SPENT TWO WEEKS IN PRC. DOEGE WAS IMPRESSED WITH WAY CHINESE FOOD PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS CONTROL MARKETING OF THEIR PRODUCTS, ELIMINATING MIDDLEMAN; SUGGESTED US PRICES COULD BE STABILIZED BY ADOPTING KIND OF CO-OP TYPE ARRANGEMENTS USED IN CHINA. ACCORDING STITZ, CHINESE

FARMERS WORKING GOVT-OWNED LAND ENJOY MORE DEMOCRACY THAN DO US FARMERS WORKING PRIVATELY-OWNED SOIL; CHINESE FARMERS KNOW WHAT WHEAT PRICE WILL BE NEXT CHRISTMAS, THEY CAN DEPEND ON IT (STLP-D, FEB 9).

11. JAPAN  
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CSM'S LACHICA IN TOKYO SEES MIKI DOING BETTER THAN MANY EXPECTED. DESPITE ONLY MEDIUM POWER BASE, AND PHILOSOPHIC REFORMIST STYLE ILL-SUITED TO ROUGH-AND-TUMBLE OF JAPANESE POLITICS, THERE NOW ARE SIGNS HIS FORMULA TO RESTORE LDP CREDIBILITY EFFECTIVE. INFLATION DOWN TO 16.8 PERCENT, HELPING MIKI PERSUADE LABOR TO ACCEPT HIS "SOCIAL CONTRACT" OF HIGHER WELFARE IN RETURN FOR MODERATING WAGE DEMANDS. LACK OF "CLOUT" FORCES MIKI TO TAKE "GRADUALIST" LINE, BUT OUTLINE OF AIMS CLEAR: TO MELLOW JAPAN'S "UNBRIDLED CAPITALISM" WITH "SOCIAL FAIRNESS" AND PUSH FOR DISARMAMENT, WORLD HARMONY, AND "FAIR DEAL" BETWEEN PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS OF RESOURCES. ONLY QUESTION, LACHICA COMMENTS, IS WHETHER MIKI CAN OVERCOME CARETAKER IMAGE TO STAY ON JOB LONG ENOUGH TO FULFILL SUCH ROLE.

12. SENATOR SPARKMAN ON FOREIGN POLICY

WSJ (2/13) QUOTES EXCERPTS OF FIRST CRITIQUE OF US FOREIGN POLICY BY NEW SFRC CHAIRMAN: SEN SPARKMAN BELIEVES US HAS "VITAL INTEREST" IN ASIA, AND RANKS IMPORTANCE OF COMMITMENT TO JAPAN WITH THAT TO NATO. SAYS US HAS "MAJOR INTEREST" IN PRC, AND LAUDS PREVIOUS ADMIN FOR REOPENING CONTACTS



WITH CHINA. FEELS ADMIN SHOWS "EXCELLENT JUDGMENT"  
IN RESISTING TEMPTATION TO FISH IN TROUBLED WATERS  
OF SINO-SOVIET CONTROVERSY AND STATES US INTERESTS  
AND WORLD PEACE SERVED BY NORMALIZATION OF POLITICAL,  
ECONOMIC, CULTURAL RELATIONS WITH BOTH, COUPLED  
WITH "SCRUPULOUS NEUTRALITY" ON ISSUES BETWEEN THEM.

DECLARES WE HAVE NOW REACHED CONSENSUS WHERE SEA  
"BELATEDLY RECOGNIZED" AS AREA OF LIMITED US SECURITY  
INTERESTS, WHATEVER MERITS OF PREVIOUS POSITIONS TAKEN  
DURING LONG, ACRIMONIOUS DEBATE OVER INDOCHINA. CAUTIONS  
IT WOULD BE FUTILE TO RAISE AGAIN QUESTION OF US  
INVOLVEMENT; THUS, MORE THAN EVER, SEES NEED FOR RVN,  
GKR "TO MAKE OWN WAY" AND OUTLOOK "IS NOT ENCOURAGING."  
SAYS PARIS ACCORDS NOW EVIDENT, IF NOT BEFORE,  
ESSENTIALLY AS BASIS FOR US WITHDRAWAL, RETURN OF  
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US POWS, AND ARRANGEMENT FOR "DECENT INTERVAL" BEYOND  
  
WHICH STRUGGLE FOR INDOCHINA WOULD NOT GO ON BETWEEN  
INDIGENOUS PARTIES.

SPARKMAN OBSERVES ANY REQUEST FOR MORE AID TO SVN,  
CAMBODIA SHOULD CERTAINLY RECEIVE CLOSE, CAREFUL  
SCRUTINY IN CONGRESS, AND DECLARES ADMIN SHOULD BE  
PREPARED TO EXPLAIN IN WHAT EXACT WAYS US NATIONAL  
INTEREST SERVED BY MIL AID TO ENABLE SAIGON, PP  
REGIMES TO CONTINUE FIGHTING IN RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES.  
MAW

NOTE BY OC: POUCHED

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CAN THO  
DANANG

HONG KONG  
NHA TRANG  
JEC PARIS INFO COMUSSAGE  
CINCPAC  
COGARD  
BUDAPEST BY POUCH  
XMT SUVA  
RANGOON

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